(c) the progress made so far towards rehabilitation and resettlement of dam oustees indicating the number of families ousted thereby and those resettled and to be resettled?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The old Tehri Town has submerged following the closure of last Diversion Tunnel T-2 of Tehri Dam Project on 20.10.2005 and the water level has reached a level of 700 M. The filling of the reservoir is being done in a phased manner and it will take three to four years to reach the Full Reservoir Level of Elevation Level (EL) 830 Meters.

(b) The 260.5 M high earth and rock fill dam has been completed. Entire civil and electro-mechanical works including pre-commissioning tests have been completed for commissioning of all the four units of 250 MW each, progressively from March, 2006 onwards. The generation from the project will start after reservoir is filled up to EL 740 M.

(c) All the 5291 Urban families and 4779 fully affected Rural families have already been rehabilitated. The remaining 650 fully affected Rural families residing above EL 760 M are being rehabilitated *parri-passu* with the reservoir filling. In addition, out of 3180 partilally affected Rural families residing above EL 800 M which are not to be rehabilitiated, 2280 families have been given the cash compensation due to them.

Private and foreign investment in power sector

3146. SHRI PRAMOD-MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the private and foreign investment in power sector in last three years, year-wise; and '

(b) the steps taken to increase private and foreign investment in power sector?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Pursuant to the Electricity Act, 2003, the thermal generation has been delicensed. As regards private investment in hydro-

electric projects, the information as available with the Central Electricity Authority is reproduced below:-

(Rs. in crores)

2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
467.46	230.05	293.32

As regards foreign investment in power sector Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which is monitoring the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows, has reported the following FDI during last three years:-

(Rs. in crores)

2003	2004	2005 *(Upto 9/05)*
190.74	251.06	114.77

(b) The Electricity Act, 2003 creates a liberal framework for development of the electricity industry, promoting competition therein and protecting the interest of the consumers. It envisages supply of electricity to all, rationalization of electricity tariff, constitution of Regulatory Commissions and establishment of an Appellate Tribunal. The Act reduces entry barriers in different segments of power industry and promotes competition and in turn efficiency improvements.

Thermal generation has been delicensed by the Act. The Act provides for non-discriminatory open access in transmission from the very onset. Open access in distribution is also to be introduced by the SERCs in phases.

Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the appropriate Commission shall adopt the tariff if such tariff has been determined through transparent process of bidding in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government. Central Government has issued the guidelines for competitive bidding for determination of tariff for procurement of power by distribution licensees in January, 2005. It is expected to facilitate private sector participation in generation.

Proposals for Foreign Direct Investment in respect of power generation, transmission & distribution projects (other than nuclear power plants) are on the RBI automatic approval route no longer require the prior approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB).